

# NATIONAL INTELLIGENCER.

LETTER FROM MAJOR DOWNING.

Letter of Instructions to President Pierce and Cabinet.

OASTEND, OCTOBER 28, 1854.

DEAR GENERAL: We are all prowl on here, and doing the best we can, though we have made out to fetch matters to a head yet; but I guess we are in a pretty fair way for it. Our team's got grit enough, and by jingo, they'll haul the load they hitch on to, or else something's got to give way. Mr. Buchanan and Mr. Mason isn't quite spry enough; they are a little on the old foggy fashion, and not always ready to come up to the scratch; but with Mr. Sikes' spur on one side, and Mr. Souley drivin' up behind, we make out to get a pretty good pull out of them sometimes. We've got things so far ahead here that Mr. Sikes and Mr. Sanders thinks I better write a despatch to you and the Cabinet to home and give you some instructions how to go on.

I'll tell you what 'tis, General, (when I call you General I sometimes can't feel as if I was writing to General Jackson again; I say, General, I'll tell you what 'tis, them three S's (Sikes, Sanders, and Souley) are the three smartest chaps that ever grew in North America. They make Europe stand round, and no mistake. Mr. Souley holds old Spain between his thumb and finger, and whisks her about just as he's a mind to, Queen and all; Mr. Sanders lays down the Democratic law to France, and stands a pretty fair chance to be chose President of the new French Republic after Napoleon goes out; and as for old John Bull, I'll be licked if I think the critter dares to stir an inch while Sikes holds him by the horns.

I suppose you've seen them letters—how Mr. Sikes snubbed Peabody, the great merchant-banker, about the 4th of July dinner. Capital, wasn't it? Ye see, Mr. Peabody gin a 4th of July dinner. He's always doing such things, or giving money away for something or other; for they say he's got money enough to buy a kingdom. Well, he invited Mr. Sikes to come and jine the rest of us and have a good set down. But, ye see, Mr. Peabody didn't know how much patriotism and red Democratic grit there was stowed away in Mr. Sikes' breast; he had no idea o't; and that was the rock he split on. You'll hardly believe me, General, when I say it, but it's a fact, Mr. Peabody had Englishmen there to help eat that dinner! It's a melancholy fact, but it's true. If he had had half a table full of cannibals we could all a stood it and fit our way through; but Mr. Sikes couldn't stand Englishmen. He had too much Democratic blood in him for that. To mix up Democrats and Englishmen at the same table was awful. But that wasn't the worst of it. When Mr. Sikes got there he couldn't hardly believe his own eyes; for there was a portrait of the Queen hung right up in the same room with General Washington! Wasn't that a stumper? No wonder Mr. Sikes' Democratic blood boiled over. But that wasn't the worst of it. When they come to give the toasts, they toasted the Queen! The rest of the folks stood up to drink the toast, but Mr. Sikes grins his teeth and set down as hard as a thousand of brick; and he felt so disgusted he couldn't eat another mouthful. And when the music, to increase the insult, struck up "God save the Queen," Mr. Sikes took his hat and marched out. There was spunk that Young America ought to be proud of! That Mr. Buchanan didn't take his hat and march out too only shows that he's an old fog.

We've held our Congress, and got things in a middling good train, though, as I said before, we haven't brought matters quite to a head yet. We managed better than your Congress does. We didn't stop to make so many long-winded speeches, but talked right to the point, and got through in a few days. The members chose me President of the Congress the first thing; for they said I was nearest akin to General Jackson of any of 'em, and the honor belonged to me; so I had to take the cheer. I returned thanks for the honor of course, and then proceeded to business. I begun by callin for the reports of the committees that had the business in hand afore we met.

I called for the report on England first, out of respect to her being our venerable old mother. Mr. Sikes, who was the head of that committee, reported that John Bull was an obstinate old foggy, and he had found it very hard to make any impression upon him. The people all seemed to be tied to the Queen's apron strings, and didn't appear to care no more about Democracy than a horse does about his grandfather. Still he had faith to believe that they could be made to take it, and when the time comes he was ready to off and roll up his sleeves and whip it into 'em. [Cheers.]

Upon the question of accepting Mr. Sikes' report, Mr. Buchanan rose and said he objected to the term old foggy; he never did like the term, and he thought it would do more hurt than good in the report, and he moved that it be struck out. Mr. Sanders said no; that was the very cream of the report, and he objected to its being struck out. It was then put to vote, and Mr. Buchanan and Mr. Mason voted to strike it out and therest voted to keep it in; so old foggy stands in the report by a strong majority.

I then called for the report on France. Mr. Sanders made a long report; but the substance was that the Democratic crop in France wasn't quite ripe enough to harvest. Napoleon had filled the people's heads so full of the Eastern war and glory that they couldn't think of nothin else. But, said Mr. Sanders, "there's a good time comin, boys; wait a little longer." [Cheers.]

Mr. Sanders' report was unanimously accepted, with a proviso that, while we had to wait a little longer, we shouldn't stop working, but keep stirrin round and trying to get up a muss somehow as soon as possible.

I then called for the report on Spain. Mr. Souley rose, with fire in his eye and honey and thunder on his tongue. He reported that if there was any such thing as getting sunbeams out of a cucumber he could do it; and he had come pesky near kindlin the flame of Democracy from one end of Spain to tother. He had churned the cream of Spanish Democracy, and churned it well, and the butter begun to come and swim on the top of the buttermilk, and he thought for awhile the business was done; but when he looked into the churn again, to his amazement the witchcraft of despotism had got the upper hand, and the butter was all meltin back again into the buttermilk. But, says he, as true as Jackson fogged the British at New Orleans, I'll have a red-hot horse-shoe before long to put into that churn, and then butter must come. [Cheers.]

So you see, General, how things is over here. We can't do much just yet, but you may depend on it there is great times ahead. You and Mr. Marcy and the rest must hold on and try to keep things snug and tight at home till we get our Government under way over here, and we'll cut out some work for you to do before long; and them matters and things that we don't send over any particular directions about, you and the Cabinet must try to get along with and manage accordin to your best discretion. But you better be gettin your forces ready as fast as possible, for we may call for 'em at any moment. You better enlist the old Downingville company, and get cousin Sargeant Joel to take command of it. Get Mr. Marcy to plan out the right sort of uniform, and get my friend Cushing to address 'em and fill 'em full of grit and ginger, so

they can't be held back, but will be ready at a moment's warning to "march" and carry Democracy all over Eurap, and Asha, and Afraky, and America.

Postscript.—I don't know but the muss is begun, and we may have to send over by the next steamer for Sargeant Joel and his company to come on. The French Emperor has got frightened or mad about matters, I don't know which, and has snubbed Mr. Souley and forbid his settin a foot on his land. He turned him right out of the doors of France, and told him to go about his business somewhere else. This was when Mr. Souley was on his way home to Spain from our Congress which we held at Oastend; for we was very careful not to hold it in France nor Spain nor England, so as not to stir up a muss with the Governments before it was time. But Napoleon has been foolish enough to put his foot in it, and now we've all agreed that he has got to knock under and back out, or smell thunder.

In haste and some agitation, I remain your old friend and Minister-General at large,  
MAJOR JACK DOWNING.

BALTIMORE, WEDNESDAY, NOV. 29.

To the Editors of the National Intelligencer: GENTLEMEN: I see by your issue of to-day that there is a discussion between your correspondents "Similes" and "Thymbrus" as to the authorship of the "pretty conceit"—

"The conscious water saw its God and blushed."

I take the liberty of suggesting that it is Dryden, and not Craslaw, in all proper deference to the "Cyclopaedia of English Literature," which ascribes it to the latter. It was one of the earliest, if not the first, indications of talent given by Dryden, and occurred when he was quite a youth. The marriage in Cana of Galilee, and the striking miracle there performed by our Saviour, was the subject selected by a tutor of a large class of which Dryden was a member, and the least promising of them all, to write out the original suggestions made by it upon their youthful minds. All wrote, and most of them cleverly, and some elaborately. Dryden wrote—

Lympha modesta prospectum Dryden rubuit!  
The conscious water saw its God and blushed!

## MISCELLANEOUS.

BREADSTUFFS ON THE LAKE.—The New York State canals will be closed next week for the winter. Large quantities of produce are on their way from the upper lake ports. We ascertain from the clearances published in the Chicago and Milwaukee papers that there were up to the 25th of last and on the way to Buffalo 198,062 bushels wheat, 177,247 bushels corn, 62,216 bushels oats, 13,000 bushels barley, and 4,800 bushels rye, making a total of 455,225 bushels of grain from those two ports. Besides, there is undoubtedly a considerable quantity of wheat from the ports of Racine, Waukegan, Kenosha, and Sheboygan.

SNOW.—A gentleman from the western part of New York informs the Albany Register that snow fell at Medina, Orleans county, on Saturday night last, to the depth of fifteen inches. The sleighing was good there on Sunday, and the weather was cold and blustering.

LARGE REWARD.—The Canadian authorities have increased the reward for Townsend and his gang so that they amount in the aggregate to five thousand dollars.

INDIGNITY REFUSED.—On the last day of the session of the Vermont Legislature a resolution passed the House to pay a member for his overcoat, which had been stolen during session hours; but the Senate rejected it, on the ground that it would be time enough for the State to pay for the coat when it had stolen it.

DESTRUCTIVE FIRE.—About \$30,000 worth of property was destroyed by fire at Albion (Ore.) on Saturday last. The printing offices of both the Journal and the Advocate were consumed. Cherokee Hall, the Patilio Building, the Masonic Hall, and Wadsworth's store are also in ruins.

AN ABDUCTION CASE.—FENTON PETERS and his wife Jane were arrested at New Orleans last week by the sheriff of the parish of Jefferson on the charge of having abducted a boy named Denis Langston from the plantation of his guardian, Mr. Pierre Sene, above Carrollton. It appears that the boy is the heir of an estate of \$30,000, and that Mrs. Peters is the only surviving sister of his deceased mother. In case of the boy's death she would be the sole heir to the estate. They are to be examined in Carrollton, where the alleged offense was committed.

DEPORTATION CASE.—On Saturday evening last Mr. Mordecai Thompson and Mr. Adolph Henry started in a small sail boat for Bay Monte for the purpose of hunting. Nothing was heard of them afterwards until yesterday afternoon, when their lifeless bodies were found near Choctaw lighthouse. Strange as it may seem, the boat from appearances died at the shore, and the two young men lying in her. The supposition is that they lost their sail, and, having no resource but to trust to the waves, lay down to await the issue, in which condition they froze to death. —Mobile Tribune, 22d ultimo.

SLAVE TRADE ON THE EASTERN COAST OF AFRICA.—An arrival at New York has a report stating that the barque Arton, Archer, last from Cape Lopez and Raboda, put into St. Helena for more men, and was bound for the Channel. She reported eight hundred negroes on the coast, the owners offering twenty thousand dollars to carry them to the island of Cuba, freight to be paid by a house in New York.

A NOBLE ACT.—GEORGE BEACH, Esq., of Hartford, (Ct.) has erected a fine brick building in that city, comprising twelve furnished tenements, which he designates "Houses for Widows," being intended for the comfort and accommodation of women who have been deprived of the means of support by loss of husbands, &c. This building he has put in the hands of Trustees for that purpose, merely requiring of each tenant the nominal sum of \$10 a year, which is to pay repairs, insurance, and taxes. It is already filled with that class of persons, and Mr. Beach is receiving, in the blessings of the "widow and fatherless," a greater happiness than is derived from fat dividends. —New Haven Register.

THE SECOND ADVENT PEOPLE still continue strong in the faith, and their meetings at Salem and elsewhere in New England continue with unabated interest, with no less effect to the numbers in attendance. Events have not occurred precisely as was expected, and some argue that the end will not be until next spring. Remarkable upon an argument of that kind, Elder Cummings, in an article in the "Morning Light," a paper published at Concord, (N. H.) closes with the following exhortations:

"Brethren, take not one step back to Egypt, neither put off the coming of the Lord to 'next spring,' but come to go out to meet the 'Bridegroom.' Finish up the work that is to be done as fast as you can, that you may be ready to be presented before the Father blameless." —Salem Journal.

DEADLY ACCIDENT FROM CANNIBALS.—Several members of the team of Major John West, of Bloomfield, (N. J.) were shockingly injured on Tuesday evening by the bursting of a lamp containing burning fluid. The lamp was standing in the middle of the table and the family seated around when the explosion occurred. One little girl, nine years old, died the next morning from the effects of her burns. Another daughter was so much injured as to render her recovery uncertain. The mother and a little boy are also considerably burnt. The particular reason for the explosion was that the wick had dropped out of one of the tubes down into the lamp, and the gas which was thus allowed to pass up through the open tube was ignited from the flame of the other, which was burning. These "accidents" will always happen as long as this explosive mixture is used.

ACCIDENT ON THE OHIO RAILROAD.—During Wednesday night a collision took place on the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad, at a point a few miles west of Martinsburg, between a passenger train from Wheeling for Baltimore and a coal train going West, which resulted in considerable damage to the locomotives and cars. The baggage, mail and smoking cars were injured to such an extent that the train was compelled to proceed to Baltimore without them, after a detention of six hours. The cause of the collision is attributable to the coal train being run out of time.

The Indianapolis papers state that a wagon load of the notes of the Stock Banks were returned one day last week upon the Auditor of the State of Indiana.

The coal beds of East Tennessee are beginning to excite attention and interest. They are located on the line of the Nashville and Chattanooga Railroad. The coal is bituminous and of a soft texture.

The Rockville (Md.) Journal says the growing wheat looks promising. Nearly all has been guanoed liberally. A large crop is anticipated.

The locomotives passing through the neighborhood of Marion, Ohio, are obliged to blow their whistles till they get out of the woods, in order to keep the deer off the track.

SULTANA RAISINS FOR MINCE-MEAT.—10 drums new, for sale by SHEKELL BROTHERS, No. 4, opposite the Centre Market. (Star)

nov 30—Star

# WASHINGTON.

"Liberty and Union, now and forever, one and inseparable."

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 2, 1854.

## THE WAR.

Intelligence by the last mails from Europe confirms us in the opinion that the war is to extend over several eventful campaigns. The date of its close seems to us further removed and its results less distinctly foreseen than at the commencement of military operations last spring. This very Crimean expedition, in many respects the most stupendous exhibition of national strength that the world has witnessed, operating upon that distant theatre, all without the bounds of civilization, with a well-appointed military force of one hundred and fifty thousand men, accompanied with an ample and perfect material of corresponding magnitude, the whole conveyed and supported by the most numerous and powerful navies that have ever been collected for the accomplishment of warlike ends—this Crimean expedition, wasteful as it is of human life and national treasure, far from conquering the peace that is desired, will, it is to be feared, only render that peace of more remote and difficult attainment. The efforts of the Allies are met by corresponding efforts on the part of the Emperor of Russia; equality is restored, and the immense disasters of this conflict of giants in the Crimea will not be followed by those conclusive consequences which might be expected from humbler combats with inferior means. The expenditures of this campaign, vast as they are, will not exhaust either party; the result, however successful and glorious for one, will not be overwhelming and decisive of the war as to the other.

If Sebastopol be taken, a heavy blow indeed will have been inflicted upon Russia. But it will not be a disabling and mortal blow. Her right arm for offensive warfare will have been struck down and temporarily palsied; the means laboriously amassed for the pursuit of her traditional policy of external aggrandizement and of aggression upon Turkey will be lost, and the further accomplishment of that policy adjourned perhaps to illustrate the reign of a successor of the actual Czar. But the solid granite body of the Russian Empire will be unweakened, its vast defensive resources will not be materially diminished. The *vis inertiae* of the Russian Empire, distinguishing it from all contemporary empires, and which it owes perhaps even less to its immense yet compact dimensions and its dense masses of population than to its slightly advanced civilization as compared with other European nations, will, we apprehend, be found invincible by the utmost efforts of the Allies. The haughty Czar, conscious of his strength, confident in the future, wounded but not struck down, discomfited upon his frontiers but not conquered, will retire into the interior, repelling the conditions of peace offered by the Allies as peremptory and indignantly after his armies shall have been defeated (if they are defeated) in the Crimea, upon the Danube, and on the Pruth, as he does now, as he did six months ago. Confining himself, within his own dominions, to the very formidable and comparatively slightly exhaustive operations of defensive warfare, he will wait till the exhaustion or reverses of the Allies shall have restored that equality of position which will take from his acceptance of reasonable conditions of peace the appearance of compulsion, which his pride will not brook and which his power rejects.

Nor may we doubt for an instant that chivalric France and glorious old England, with her indomitable energy, her stubborn perseverance, and her national pride, founded on centuries of great achievements, will, whatever the result of the Crimean expedition, pursue yet for several campaigns the ends sought to be accomplished by the present war. If Sebastopol falls this year, Swaborg must fall next year, and Cronstadt the next, till all the accessible agents of Russian aggrandizement, her maritime commerce, her fleets, her sea-ports, her whole naval power actually existing, shall be destroyed. Then, probably, if the civilization of Russia were advanced to the same point with that of France and England, the ends and the end of the war would be attained. The Allies would be able to dictate conditions of peace.

Neither France nor England could bear this isolation, the stoppage of all commercial intercourse with other nations. Modern civilization, with its arts, manufactures, and commerce, has produced for them such intimate and extensive relations with the rest of the world—relations upon which the comfort, the material well-being, it may be almost said the daily existence, of all classes of their population depend—that it may be confidently asserted a fearful social revolution would inevitably attend one year's exclusion from intercourse with the family of nations. Not so with Russia. Doubtless a strict blockade of the whole Russian sea-coast, stopping totally all maritime intercourse with other nations, would produce in Russia a certain degree of discomfort and suffering. The comparatively small mercantile class would suffer most; the nobles would have to dispense with some articles of Parisian luxury to which they are now accustomed; but it may be questioned whether the happiness and material well-being, such as it is, of nine-tenths of the Russian population would be injuriously affected to any perceptible extent by such exclusion. It may well be doubted whether the civilized Powers themselves, whose navies would effect this blockade, would not even more suffer, by the privation of the raw materials which they had been accustomed to draw from Russia as aliment for their manufactures, than Russia from her inability to sell them. We have indeed recently met, and from an English source, with an argument to this effect on this very point. The writer was opposed to the adoption of measures by the Allies to prevent the export from Prussian neutral ports of raw materials of Russian origin, arguing that the total suppression of this trade would operate more to the injury of England herself than to that of Russia.

The war was too hastily, if not unnecessarily, entered upon by all parties, and has already been foreseen, or even doubtfully anticipated, would have prevented the kindling of the conflagration which is now raging. Who can doubt that if the Czar had foreseen that the resumption last year of his aggressive policy upon Turkey would have induced the formidable alliance of France and England which is now threatening with annihilation that

naval power of Russia which has been built up and fostered with so much care and expense, and which had become of such fine promise, he would have postponed to a more convenient season the fatal mission of Prince Menshikoff to Constantinople? And the Allies themselves, in their pride of power, did not calculate with sufficient exactness the resistances of their enemy, which, when the comparatively easy task of preventing his advance and of driving him back from the Principalities into his own limits should be accomplished, would enable him to resist indefinitely their utmost efforts at total subjugation, and prevent for many years, if not forever, the imposition upon him of humiliating terms of peace. They counted also with too much confidence upon the co-operation of Austria and the rest of Germany in a war having for its pressed object the limitation of the power and humiliation of a grasping neighbor, from whom the interests of Austria especially, and of Germany generally, have much to apprehend. The Allies forgot that if Austria and Germany have much to fear from Russia, they have also, in another view of their relations, much to hope from her; and they did not sufficiently consider that if the danger to be apprehended by Germany from Russia be real, it is also remote; while the advantages secured by uninterrupted friendly relations and alliance with the Czar are pressing, instant, and of equally vital import. But we shall not now take occasion to state our views touching the position of the German States with respect to the war. At present we have only to say that the Allies can count now with no more confidence than heretofore upon active German co-operation in hostilities against Russia. If Austria and the other German States are making warlike preparations upon a scale of unusual magnitude, it is, we believe, solely with the view to be able to command, under all possible circumstances, respect from the belligerent Powers of that neutrality from which they will not depart, except in the last extremity.

As intimated in the beginning of these remarks, our last advices from Europe show that both Russia and the Allies are resolved that, whatever be the result of the great conflict now waging in the Crimea, defeat shall not dishearten, but shall only serve to inspire them to greater exertion for the recovery next spring of the ground that may be lost during the present campaign. Reinforcements are daily sailing from the southern ports of France for the army of the Crimea; ships from the late Baltic fleet and numerous transports of the merchant marine are hastening to the Black Sea, laden with provisions, munitions of war of all sorts, and regiments of all arms, numbering, it is asserted, 20,000 men. A portion of the army of occupation of Greece has already gone, and that which has been for some years occupying Rome is said to be under orders for the same destination. England on her side is despatching from seven to ten thousand additional troops; and Russia, it seems, from the last despatch of Gen. CANNIBERT, has already established the numerical superiority before Sebastopol, which, despite the gallantry and skill of the Allies, which none can appreciate more highly than ourselves or more sincerely admire, may yet drive them with ruin, though not with disgrace, from the enterprise they have perhaps rashly undertaken.

## A TRUE FOREIGN POLICY.

We have nowhere, or at any time, seen the policy which should govern our public counsels in regard to foreign affairs laid down more justly and wisely, or more clearly and concisely, than we find it in the annexed brief passage of Governor MANNING's recent Message to the Legislature of South Carolina. Happy would it be for the honor of our country, as well as for its highest interest, if these sentiments could become universal and ever form the rule and guide of our National Government.

## THE EXTRACT.

"As a constituent part of the American Confederate Republic, the existing aspect of our foreign relations is a matter of deep interest, and requires from you watchfulness and solicitude. The laws of comity which regulate the intercourse of nations, a discreet and sound policy towards ourselves, and the good faith to be observed in maintaining the terms of treaties, should make this nation carefully avoid both the reality and appearance of attempting, directly or indirectly, to grasp any portion of foreign dominion. Whatever can be effected that is desirable for the country to achieve, by open treaty, with a distinct and separate Power, is a question of policy alone, to which there can be no objection; but beyond this the Government has no right to go, whether through the agency of unlawful enterprises at home or indiscreet and anomalous ministerial interference abroad."

MAJOR DOWNING.—We had lost sight of our old friend Major JACK DOWNING so long, and were so completely ignorant of his whereabouts, that we had begun seriously to apprehend that he had fallen a victim to some distant and perilous expedition in the service of the Government when our anxiety was happily relieved by the receipt from him of the copy of the Report to the PRESIDENT which is inserted in this morning's Intelligencer. We confess, however, that the chief matter of his report surprised us almost as much as the hearing from him gratified us. We had seen many references in the public papers to a "Conference of American Ambassadors in Europe," and even that the "ultimatum" of the Conference had been forwarded to the President by the hands of our Consul at Paris, who arrived here a few weeks ago. But, notwithstanding all this, and even a quasi recognition of the thing by our official paper, the *Union*, the novelty and improbability of it were so at variance with all precedent in our history, and all necessity or likelihood in our political system, that we gave the story no credence, supposing it to have been fabricated by some of the presses which deal in marvels and live on public excitement, when the letter of Maj. DOWNING reached us and gave reality to what we had deemed an ingenious fiction. The transaction presents matter for grave comment; but as we shall in so few days have from the PRESIDENT himself, in his communication to Congress, an exposition of this, with other matters of public concern, we will reserve till then any further remarks.

## NORTH CAROLINA SENATORS.

Our readers are already aware that the Hon. DAVID S. REID and the Hon. ASA BIGGS have been elected to the Senate of the United States, the former for the short term and the latter to succeed Mr. BADGER. The Whigs of the House paid a merited tribute to the public services and personal worth of the Hon. D. M. BARRINGER in supporting him for the vacancy, and to those exalted abilities and that devotion to the interests of the State that so pre-eminently distinguish Mr. BADGER in endorsing his Senatorial career. —Raleigh Register.

It is stated that Mr. STANHO, the Mormon leader of Beaver Island, is elected to the Legislature of Michigan. The whole Mormon force voted for Mr. PECK, the only Democrat elected to Congress from that State.

## SOMETHING YET TO BE SETTLED.

In the speech of Gen. Cass, lately published, there were severe strictures upon the course of some of the Southern presses, and the Charleston Mercury takes up the pen to combat "a few points" in the speech. In the first place, it utterly repudiates the idea that slavery possesses no "motive power," and can only go by virtue of special legislation into the Territories. It will not admit that slavery in the United States is to be judged by decisions based upon the common law of England. Slavery exists (the Mercury contends) in this country under circumstances altogether peculiar and anomalous, to which such decisions can have no application. It is not forbidden but recognised in the Constitution of the United States.

The Mercury scents the idea of a municipal law being necessary before slavery can enter the Territories as inconsistent with the equality and sovereignty of the States. There can be no sovereignty or equality with a discrimination against the slave States. As the Democracy, therefore, have still a tangled question to decide among themselves before they can plead a nationality beyond that of the Whigs, it may be but just and proper that the Mercury be allowed to state its own views in its own language, so that the Democracy of the North may read and understand the matter under consideration.

## FROM THE CHARLESTON MERCURY.

If the South for a moment accepts such doctrine, she abandons the vital idea of Democratic faith and the very essence of her political rights. The proposition advanced by Gen. Cass is no novelty in itself, but it is a fact of significance when it is heralded as good Democratic doctrine by the leader of that party in the West. It shows how much Democratic faith has swerved from its old line at the North, and to what depths of humiliation, concession, and recreancy the champions must stoop to appease the cry of abolition; that before its fearful swell the most sacred principles must fall, even so glorious in its conception and so noble in its history as the equality and sovereignty of the States. And, more than all, it reveals to the South the startling fact that her allies at the North, long and often weakened by their own submission, and now overwhelmed by the tempest, are compelled to whittle down still more her diminished rights and to abandon her to her fate. It is another of the many and bitter experiences written in the history of the last thirty years, all illustrating one memorable truth, that a people who shrink from the bold maintenance of their own cause can never have faithful allies; they are indeed unworthy of them.

But Gen. Cass, in his zeal on this subject, makes a statement which will no doubt astonish the Southern members who voted for the Nebraska bill. He says: "Every man, and the South almost as one man, voted for them. Every man who voted to give to those Territories the power to legislate over slavery, to introduce or to exclude it at pleasure, knew full well that he was giving to the Legislatures of these Territories, who would not consider themselves prohibited by the Constitution, an authority which would be exercised to the letter, and that the fate of slavery, as an institution in the country, would depend on their action, or rather would depend on its introduction by them, or without such introduction it was excluded by the absence of any local law maintaining it."

This is certainly a new feature in the case. What! Southern men sustain a bill, believing and knowing that by it they were thus sacrificing the South, forever shutting slavery out of Kansas and Nebraska, and placing upon our front the stamp of inequality and degradation! Is this the bill, this principle, which so united the South in what they believed fair and constitutional, and which, according to Gen. Cass, is the vilest swindle? It is not possible that Southern men could have acted with such perfidy or imbecility. They never dreamed that slavery, under this bill, could not enter Nebraska or Kansas until admitted by Freesall squatters; but they believed that these Territories were to be in fact what they were proclaimed, "*tabula rasa*," upon which the institutions and habits of every section of the country might freely impress themselves. Gen. Cass, in making the above statement, has utterly falsified the position of the South. They never did, and never will, accept of such a construction. It has been wrong from this bill to appease the fury of fanaticism by men regardless of truth towards the opinions of Southern members or justice to the South.

## NO PLATFORM!

For the first time since the adoption of the Resolutions of 1798-99 have the leaders of the Virginia Democracy shown signs of fainting or faltering. Annually, and sometimes semi-annually, the creed of the "Indomitables" was proclaimed to the faithful of the State and to the world at large with no hesitating or doubtful tone, but with the boldness and fervor of the old Romans who directed the councils. Never within our recollection has there been a failure to proclaim the incomprehensible truths which every body was expected to understand better than their authors. It was in vain that Mr. MADISON gave them a peaceful and a conservative interpretation; whenever the Democratic power was to be called "to arms" the old platform was put forward, and the sturdy believers were called upon to see that not a plank was out of place nor a splinter subtracted. By degrees additional timbers were added, some of them shaped without axe or hammer as far north as Baltimore, and the whole structure was looked upon and admired as the very SEABASTOPOL OF DEMOCRACY.

Alas! that there should now be signs of doubt or symptoms of danger! The Richmond Enquirer gravely and even seriously counsels that there shall be no declaration of principles at the Convention which is to come off at Staunton on Thursday next! It fears division and distraction. It is its "deliberate conviction" that the "Staunton Convention will determine the destiny of the Democratic party in Virginia; will settle, for long years to come, the problem of its continued ascendancy or its overthrow and banishment from power!"

This is a subject of sad and sorrowful contemplation. With much veneration for so ancient and moss-covered an institution as that of the Virginia Democracy, we cannot look upon this sombre picture, drawn by the skillful pencil of the Enquirer, without something of emotion; and we must obtrude so far upon the grief of our worthy contemporaries as to ask when it was that the "unfettered" sovereigns of Virginia gave up their destiny to a political Sanhedrin such as that about to assemble at Staunton? If every thing really "depends upon the action of the Staunton Convention," how is it that the people themselves have been allowed to know nothing of their imminent danger until the very latest moment?

But we have at length discovered the bitter ingredient in the Democratic cup. The Whigs have not preserved their gravity and wanted decorum in view of the important movements on the political chess-board. It is that mischievous organization and their impudent allies that have been disturbing the peace of mind of the gentlemen of the Enquirer. "We wish (say they, in the very bitterness of depreciation) the Democracy of Virginia could witness the delight and exultation with which their 'feuds are contemplated by their adversaries, whether they be the Whigs of this State, the Know-Nothings of Massachusetts, or the Abolitionists of Ohio.'"

Well, this is certainly a bad state of things; but the Whig grimaces cannot be very general, nor their exultation very loud, if the good people out of the precincts of Richmond have not had eyes to see or ears to hear. But we have respect for the sorrows of the disconsolate, and must forbear even a smile on the occasion, awaiting the current of events with all the grace and patience at our command.

F. M. BARSTOW was recently elected a Representative in Congress from the third district of Kentucky, to supply the vacancy caused by the death of the Hon. FRANKLIN BROWN.

## FROM THE ISLAND OF CUBA.

CORRESPONDENCE OF THE NEW ORLEANS TRUE DELTA.

HAVANA, NOVEMBER 15, 1854.

I gave you a few lines by the United States war steamer Princeton, since which we have had no extraordinary excitement. Gen. MARAZO left this port on the steamer Don Juan of Austria for the east end of the island, to visit Baracoa and to superintend the proceedings against the captured schooners, officers, crews, and passengers implicated in the recent introduction of arms at that point. This officer is also charged with the investigation of many violations of the treaty between England and Spain for the suppression of the slave trade, by introductions which have been made of Africans at Nuevas Granadas and other near points, which have been publicly disposed of in the city of Nuevas. A cargo of four hundred and forty was introduced at the first named place about three weeks since, and two or three smaller lots have been since entered and distributed. One cargo of six hundred, which it was supposed the Government had secured on the south side, proves without foundation, as the negroes had been divided upon estates, where it was impossible to trace them, and some few aged and sick only have been found.

Moskoro, the citizen of New Orleans who is now held in prison here, under suspicion of being the murderer of Castaneda, will have to remain so until the Government is well assured of his innocence. The acting Consul, Wm. H. ROBERTSON, who has the same power for action in this case that he could have if clothed with full ex-quo-quester authority as Consul, has done all that could be done in the premises to urge speedy investigation and release.

Moskoro took from the Spanish Consul at New Orleans a passport as a Spanish subject, under which he came to Havana, and he must abide the consequences. There is nothing of Koesta in the matter, and action for his protection as an American citizen, which is his only claim, is not a matter for the Government to consider. It is not a matter for the Government to consider.

The ex-querator of Consul does not give any diplomatic rights or powers in Cuba; but I am happy to say that, through the intelligence and industry of our countrymen in his acting capacity, no interest of the country or its citizens has been neglected; on the contrary, more useful information has been furnished the States and more labor performed in the months of the present incumbency than are embraced by the years since the administration of Gen. CASARDO, great credit which will be paid by Congress or others interested may make by a visit to the consular bureau at Washington. Col. ROBERTSON is familiar with the language, familiar with the people and their peculiar habits, at all times a courteous gentleman, and whose consequence is always listened to with most respectful attention by the Cuban General, and his slightest requests promptly attended to. He is at this moment occupied with matters of importance to our growing steam commercial marine and other interests, which will undoubtedly yield favorable results under the just consideration and business capacity of Gen. ROBERTSON; and it is the hope here that, as the office does no more pay for political aspiration and "love of country," he may be let alone.

I hand you a paper herewith which is rather suspicious, and if all is to be as therein declared we shall have a season of war on our coast, and some of our most formidable documents that when the war really comes I shall probably be taken by surprise. In this connection I am informed that there will be "pronouncements" against Spanish rule at four or five points of the island on Sunday next, which is a double feast day, being the "Saint Day" of our Queen, and the celebration of the battle of "Coca nana," a grand parade, inspection and review of troops, and throughout the country by *disgraces!* I should think there was something in the matter, a screw or two loose somewhere, from the movements noticeable in the various villages and towns, and the palace for their own interests, and the preparation which is quietly being made at the arsenals and shops for services in the interior or at the east, as the exigencies of the public peace may require. If there is any movement we shall see it by the 22d or 23d, or in time for advice by next steamer.

EVEREST.—The steamer not having arrived, I am compelled to notice the reports which have been through the day circulated among us, as I believe, to mislead those who may have in charge truthful advice to the people of the Southwest of the United States, and to give color to the correspondence that may go to New Orleans.

The Governor of Trinidad is said to be in arrest in this city, which I presume is true, but the cause is for permitting in his district the violation of the laws in relation to the introduction of Africans. It has been made the foundation of a story of revolution in "Villa Clara" and the neighboring country, "in which the soldiers have fraternized with the people," &